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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

DEPLORE ANTI-SEMITIC ATTACKS

Officials and agencies of the United urch of Christ have been in the fore- nt in condemning the vicious attacks de upon Jewish citizens in this country l elsewhere as well as the vandalism petrated against their houses of wor- and community centers.

The Co-Presidents of the United urch were among the initiators of a tement released by over twenty de- minational executives and other re- ous leaders which asserted that these acks showed a "central organizing ce of the same vicious type that existed Nazi Germany."

In expressing their sympathy and soli- rity in combatting this evil, they said:

"We believe it is incumbent upon all men good will to express their disapproval of lawlessness and to call upon police agen- and the community at large vigorously to mp it out.

"We also believe that it is the duty of the mocratic nations of the world to seek out d expose people who are advocating, open- or secretly, the Nazi philosophy of racism."

At its meeting in Buck Hill Falls, nnsylvania, January 30 to 31, the uncil for Christian Social Action sent following telegram to Rabbi Marc nnenbaum of the Synagogue Council Amercia:

"The Council for Christian Social Action the United Church of Christ meeting at ck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, wishes to con- to you and to all members of your faith deep sorrow and concern that the Jewish ople have recently been the objects of re- wed attacks. We have decided at our meet- to begin a serious effort of education ong the people of the churches, dealing h the sources and manifestations of ti-Semitism. We plan through our pub- ations and in other ways to take up e responsibility that rests upon us as Chris- ns to help end the great evil that so long s hurt the Jewish people, and by hurting em hurt all members of the human family."

Record Attendance at Washington Seminar

Three hundred and forty persons from seventeen denominations in the United States and Canada made up the best attended Washington Churchmen's Seminar in years. At the four-day session in the Nation's Capital, February 16-19, the largest single denominational group this year was from the United Church of Christ (there were 31 CC's and 23 E&R's).

Dr. Roger Shinn, professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, gave the opening address, on "Religious Motivation for Political Concern." Senators Jacob K. Javits (New York) and Gale W. McGee (Wyoming), discussed 1960 election issues. Congressmen Richard Bolling (Missouri) and Albert Quie (Minnesota) answered questions on domestic issues now before Congress; news correspondents Ernest K. Lindley *(Newsweek)* and Max Freedman (Manchester *Guardian*) spoke at a long session on "A Critique of U. S. Foreign Policy." Paul Hoffman, Director of the United Nations Special Fund, and Dr. Kenneth Maxwell, Executive Director of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches, discussed "Church and State: Partners for Peace."

Members of the Seminar had opportunity to talk with State Department officials and with chiefs of seven other government agencies. Part of one day was given to visiting senators and representatives and attending committee meetings on Capitol Hill.

Encore Planned

Another Washington Seminar, designed primarily for members of the United Church of Christ, will be held in the Nation's Capital April 26-28 under the leadership of Miss Fern Babcock, staff member of the Council for Christian Social Action. Sharing with the Council in sponsoring the Seminar will be the Washington Area United Church of Christ Committee on Christian Social Action, of which Mr. Charles English is chairman.

The purpose of this seminar is to explore the bearing of Christian faith upon political life; to observe the work of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the Federal Government; to prepare for more effective citizenship; and to consider next steps toward peace.

Sessions will be held at the Dodge Hotel, 22 E. Street, N.W., and will open on Tuesday, April 26, at 9:30 a. m. Dr. Fred Buschmeyer, Director of the

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Some of the 54 United Church of Christ delegates at the Churchmen's Washington Seminar.

THE GERMAN CHURCH AND THE INDUSTRIAL ORDER

by Huber F. Klemme

The first impression West Germany makes on an American visitor is the amazing material reconstruction and prosperity which the country has achieved —through a combination of factors such as Marshall Plan credits, economic initiative, organizational genius, and hard work. Cities which suffered 75% to 80% destruction in the war have been in large measure rebuilt, and building is still going on. In spite of a steady stream of refugees from the East Zone and the territories under Russian and Polish administration, many of these refugees have been absorbed into the economy and there is actually reported to be a shortage of labor. Apartment houses, office buildings, factories, public buildings, schools, and churches have been erected with beauty as well as utility in mind.

In contrast with the paralysis and want of the period following the war, this prosperity is, of course, most welcome. Christians ought not confuse physical comfort with moral evil. Inevitably, however, one asks whether Germany does not face some of the same dangers which beset us in the United States—the temptation to complacency and self-indulgence, indifference to less fortunate neighbors at home and abroad, neglect of the spiritual life in its true sense. One wonders too, how long the present "boom" can continue; whether the Christian Democratic regime and the dominant industrial interests are so firmly wedded to unregulated capitalism that they would be unable to cope with a "flattening out" of the economic curve and so contribute to a down-curve; whether the Social Democrats would come forward with a constructive alternative and if so whether the people of West Germany would accept it; whether there is sufficient *distribution* of purchasing power to cushion an economic recession; and whether in such a crisis fanaticism of the right or left would get a new lease on life.

Labor Organization

The status of labor in the new Germany is not so easily assessed. There are marked differences in structure and function between American and German labor unions. In Germany the union does not bargain at the plant level or deal with local grievances. It bargains at the level of the industry, and in certain industries is represented on the Board of Directors. More significance is attached to the *Betriebsrat* or "works council" elected by all the workers in the plant. These representatives in many instances have opportunity not only to deal with grievances but give effective expression to the worker's needs and wishes. Some labor spokesmen state that the newer generation of "bosses" and "workers' representatives" have a greater facility for getting ahead on the real issues than some of the older protagonists, who carry over old ideas of paternalism or of class struggle. However, they regret the lagging of wages behind profits and production and the lack of labor recognition in the government.

The Evangelical Church in Germany has, of course, only recently come to face the problem of communicating effectively with men and women who are involved in the modern industrial order. Traditionally, the German churches were out of touch with the working people. Their clergy were taken more largely from the "upper" and "middle" business and professional classes; and their preparation emphasized academic education without any corresponding stress on practical pastoral training. Although 95% of the population are nominally members of the Roman Catholic or the Evangelical church, and thus contribute through the church tax to the support of one of these bodies, only from 5% to 8% of the Protestants, and perhaps at most 40% of the Roman Catholics are by American standards active church members.

Yet the alert leadership is engaged in many efforts to vitalize the church and bridge the gap between clergy and laity, between the conventional church member and the often alienated masses. One Regional Church has laid down the requirement that every candidate for the ministry must work for six months in either a factory or a social welfare institution. Another offers opportunities for persons who do not have the academic or economic background for university education, to be trained for service as assistant pastors.

Three Approaches

Three institutional expressions of the effort to witness more relevantly are especially impressive. One of these is the Evangelical Academies, where occupational groups, groups related to a single enterprise, or groups having some special interest are invited to consider their problems in a free atmosphere, away from the traditional church setting. Here real issues can be brought up and their Christian relevance discussed without any restraints. The Academies vary in their emphases and do not all deal with the same groups or problems. At present, too, they are deploying their staffs, putting certain "social action pastors" to work in nearby industrial centers so that they can keep in constant touch with the key people in various callings. Bad Boll has developed programs "off campus" and is now seeking ways and means to bring into the local congregation the inspiration and the results of its work. These Academies — and the parallel Catholic Academies—are a most fruitful development in postwar German church life.

A second experiment is that carried on by Pastor Horst Symanowski at Gossner Haus in Mainz-Kastel. Here in connection with a home for young workers a seminar is conducted for pastors, orienting them in the facts of life in an industrial society through lectures supplemented by field trips and some weeks of work in a factory, followed by a discussion of the implications of their study and experience for the pastor and the work of the church. (This story was written up in the United Church *Herald* for December 4, 1958 by Robert Starbuck, an Evangelical and Reformed minister, presently associated with Pastor Symanowski and supported by the Congregational Christian Service Committee).

A third center which is carrying on a significant work is Haus Villigst in Schwerte. Headed by Dr. Klaus von Bismarck, Social Action Executive of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, a staff aided by experts from various theoretical and practical fields conducts extended "social seminars" in the various communities of Westphalia, with such subjects as "Community and Church Life in our City," "Industry and Society," "Power in Society," "Church and State." Von Bismarck is a keen student of economic and political life, in great demand in church and secular circles throughout Germany.

The leaders of these movements are eager for information about our own approach to the problems of church and society, and suggest that American and German church life have much to offer each other.

* * * *

The Reverend Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director for the Council for Christian Social Action and Editor of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, visited West Germany in November under the German government's Exchange Program and following the official study tour visited the centers of which he writes.

FISK DATES ANNOUNCED

The 1960 session of the Race Relations Institute will be held at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, June 20-July 2. This is earlier than normal to avoid conflict with the General Synod.

This institute is led by specialists in the study of community problems and in the techniques of promoting better group relations.

Churches, conferences and synods should encourage pastors and lay leaders to attend.

Correspondence regarding program and arrangements should be addressed to Dr. Herman H. Long, Director of the Institute, care of Fisk University. A limited number of partial scholarships will be available.

Look at Industrial Relations

Over 500 members of Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian churches in Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky heard representatives of labor and management discuss Industrial Relations with Dr. Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director of the Council for Christian Social Action. Under the auspices of the Michigan-Indiana Synod, South Indiana Synod, and Indiana State Conference committees on Christian Social Action, afternoon or evening workshops were held in Saginaw, Jackson, Detroit, and Dearborn (Michigan); Michigan City, Fort Wayne, Muncie, Antioch, and Evansville (Indiana); and Louisville, Kentucky. A similar program planned for Indianapolis and a session on the farm problem in Westphalia were cancelled because of heavy snowstorms.

In each instance, a local committee was responsible for selecting a management and a union representative and for promotion in the churches. After brief opening statements as to the purpose of the meeting, the aims of collective bargaining, the principles of industrial relations, and the problems encountered, the panel discussed questions raised by the audience. These ranged from unethical practices and right-to-work legislation to the problems of automation and inflation, with much of the discussion centering around the effective working out of differences and the principles of "living together."

A high degree of objectivity and fairness, combined with frankness in facing agreements and differences, characterized the panels. In spite of the uncertainties of travel in a snowy February, attendance ranged from 24 to 85 for the ten meetings.

CHURCHES FACE THEIR SOCIAL TASK

From the looks of its parish newsletter, Concordia United Church of Christ, Washington, D. C., whose pastor is the Reverend Henry C. Koch, really made February a Month of Emphasis for Christian Social Action.

Dr. Koch, who is at once vice-chairman of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church and chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, preached on such topics as "The Meaning of the Transfiguration," "God's Homeless People," "The Peace that Passeth Human Understanding," and "The Prophet's Dream and Vision."

At a Family Night Program on February 19, Dr. Preston A. McLendon, an outstanding pediatrician and a delegate to the Conference, spoke on the coming White House Conference on Children and Youth.

On Sunday evening, February 28, Mr. James Hamilton of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches led a discussion on "Issues of the 86th Congress of Concern to Christians." The Young Adult Fellowship and the Social Action Committee sponsored this meeting and invited the congregation.

In addition, Concordia played host to 35 United Church delegates attending the Seminar on Christian Farmers and their Government, conducted by the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches.

* * * *

Over a year ago the Social Action Committee of the Rock Spring Congregational Church in Arlington County, Virginia, with a view to understanding what might be anticipated in its own community, made a study of exactly what happened when the public schools were desegregated in Montgomery County, Maryland—also a part of Metropolitan Washington, with similar cultural, economic, and population characteristics.

The report, which in a condensed version appeared in the *Northern Virginia Sun,* comes to the following conclusion:

What happens when public schools are integrated? On the one hand, we could conclude after our observations in Montgomery County that nothing very startling happens. School doors go on opening as school doors have for a long time in this country where education is so much prized. Teachers go on assigning arithmetic problems. Children go on writing compositions. The sky doesn't fall down. The economic system doesn't collapse. Social patterns don't change overnight.

On the other hand, constitutional law assumes a new dignity, educational efforts receive a new stimulus; the insights of some men become more clear, the aspirations of other men become more free.

It would seem to the Rock Spring Social Action Committee that Arlington could approach the de-segregation of its public schools without fear and could participate with faith in the steps ahead.

* * * *

The Social Action Committee of First Congregational Church, Madison, Wisconsin, made a very careful study of the priorities to which it wished the congregation to give attention under the title, "Frontiers for 1960." After reviewing the interdenominational and denominational emphases reported in the January issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, and those recommended by the State Conference Social Action Committee, it offered study and action suggestions on the frontiers of peace, mental health, discrimination, and community welfare.

RECORD ATTENDANCE

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

Washington office of the National Council of Churches, will speak on "Churches and the Federal Government." A discussion of "The Contributions of the Churches to Peace" will be led by Dr. Kenneth Maxwell, Executive Director of the National Council's Department of International Affairs. Several senators, representatives, and other persons prominent on the Washingon scene will meet with the Seminar and discuss current legislative issues.

The registration fee is $5. Congregational Christians may get particulars from Miss Fern Babcock, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y. Evangelical and Reformed members should write to Rev. F. Nelsen Schlegel, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio.

SPARK ATTACK ON SLUMS

Following a series of slum fires in the late winter and spring of 1959 in which seven people lost their lives, the clergy of Riverhead, Long Island, prepared and issued a statement to the Town Board, the Department of Public Health, and the press, calling for immediate action to remedy the conditions responsible for such tragedy. The Town Board then appointed a Citizen's Advisory Committee on Slum Clearance consisting of representatives from the various churches and civic organizations of the community. The Riverhead Ministers' Association was represented on this committee by its president, the Rev. Herbert Perry, pastor of the First Congregational Church, and Rabbi Ascher Schapiro.

Mr. Perry was made chairman of the Advisory Committee which immediately began to plan its program. The program involved, first, consideration of a community zoning ordinance, and secondly, an actual house-to-house survey of slum areas. After a number of public meetings on the issue, the Town Board adopted the proposed zoning ordinance.

A survey conducted by the New York State Division of Housing stated that there are 800 sub-standard houses in Riverhead which were "not fit or intended for human habitation." It recommended that a state-aided housing program be adopted in which 100 low-income houses and 100 middle-income houses be constructed. The report also predicted that by 1970, the population of the town would increase from 15,000 to 40,000. The report, with its recommendations was then submitted to the Town Board in January.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

APRIL, 1960

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Peace Education Program Gathers Momentum

From all over the nation come reports of conferences, synods, associations, and local churches which are in various ways participating in the interdenominationally planned Nationwide Program of Education and Action for Peace.

The Social Action Committee of the New York Conference got an early start last summer when it encouraged the New York State Council of Churches to include a seminar on the Nationwide Program in its convocations. It then went on to develop a mimeographed guide for a four to six week's study program for the use of local churches.

The Committee also prepared a resolution on Christians and International Responsibility, along with resolutions on other current topics, for submission to the Annual Conference Meeting.

* * * *

"Christian Responsibility on a Changing Planet" was the theme of a series of programs sponsored by Mercersburg Synod the last week in February. On February 21 a synod-wide rally, at Trinity Evangelical and Reformed Church, Gettysburg, attended by 71 persons, was led by the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, International Relations Secretary of CCSA. The second rally attended by 170, was held in First United Church of Christ, Carlisle, on February 28. At this meeting two members of the Army War College and the Reverend Roland Roehner, pastor of Hayshire Church, York, joined Mr. Reissig in a panel discussion on "Is Peace Possible?"

Between Sundays, the Reverend F. Nelsen Schlegel, CCSA's Field Secretary, met with groups in several congregations in the synod and also addressed three service clubs on "Christian Responsibility for Peace."

* * * *

The Massachusetts State Conference has been urging its constituent churches to use the Message of the Fifth World Order Study Conference and the Study Guide prepared by the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. It has made speakers available for churches desiring them. In addition it has called attention to eight Wednesday night TV programs on "Great Decisions," sponsored by the World Affairs Council.

* * * *

One of the most extensive local programs reported was that planned by the Christian Citizenship Committee of the First Church in Cambridge, of which the Reverend John L. Leamon and the Reverend James R. Blanning are ministers. One Sunday service, with Dr. Kenneth L. Maxwell of the National Council of Churches, and five week night meetings with Mr. Gregory Smith of Eastman Kodak Gelatin Co., Mr. Russell Johnson of the American Friends Service Committee, Dr. Homer Jack of the American Committee for Africa, Dr. Alford Carleton of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Dr. Edwin R. Kemble of Harvard University, and others, were given to the topic.

* * * *

A petition calling for cessation of nuclear bomb tests was prepared by the Village Churchwomen of Wellesley, Massachusetts, brought before the Wellesley Congregational Church by its social action committee, and signed by 119 persons.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

April 26-28—CCSA Washington Seminar, United Church of Christ. Director: Fern Babcock.*

June 6-10—Central Christian Social Action Institute, E and R Conference Center, Dunkirk, N. Y.*

June 20-24—West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, White Memorial Retreat Center, Mill Valley, Calif.*

June 22-August 23—World Seminar (62 days in 16 countries). Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Ray Gibbons.

June 22-July 7—Hawaiian Seminar. Leaders: Rev. and Mrs. Galen R. Weaver.

June 20-July 2—Seventeenth Annual Race Relaitons Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn. Director: Dr. Herman H. Long.

July 11-15—Midwest Christian Social Action Institute, Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.*

July 18-22—Southern Institute, Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, N. C.*

July 25-29—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Congregational Conference Center, Framingham, Mass.*

August 3-22—Mexican Seminar. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. Huber F. Klemme.

September 6-9—CCSA meeting with Synod and State Conference chairmen, Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota.

October 25-27—United Nations—World Order Seminar, New York.

***For information and possible scholarship help, Congregational Christians may write to Miss Fern Babcock, CCSA, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.; and Evangelical and Reformed members may write to the Rev. F. Nelsen Schlegel, CCSA, 2969 West 25th Street, Cleveland 13, Ohio.**